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Góngora. His identification of places in the Southwest would have been modified or materially strengthened had he consulted Spanish manuscript or printed books which are by no means of difficult access. Lastly, his knowledge about the expedition of Pedro de Villazur to the Platte River and its disastrous end (1720) would have become much more profitable to him in a geographical way had he consulted the publications of the Archæological Institute, which are based largely, if not exclusively, upon Spanish documents.

In his descriptions of parts of the West the author is usually fair. So are the French reports upon which he relies. To what extent his depreciation of the book of La Hontan is justified remains yet an open question. More than one traveller in former times has been accused by superficial critics of unreliability and gross mendacity, while subsequent investigations proved him to be at least partly in the right. It is very easy to condemn, from the depths of a commodious armchair, men who have written in the field and from the field and under the impression of an environment to which the critic would be very careful not to expose himself.

On the whole, the book is, within very narrow limits, an accession of some value to French-American literature. While not indispensable in the face of the formidable material already extant on Franco-American colonization, it is not utterly uncalled for. But it should have been made more concise. The frequent repetitions of tales of misery and disgrace are superfluous and finally tire out the reader. Everybody knows that French colonization in North America has been a failure, and there is no need of making it a hackneyed theme by constant recurrence to its gruesome detail. The author of the book, however, has done right and rendered a positive service to historic truth by placing the responsibility of the failure where it belongs, namely, with the French people. A. F. B.

**The Pistol and the Revolver.** By A. L. A. Himmelwright. 157 pp., Illustrations, Appendix and Index. J. J. Little & Co., New York, 1908.

Explorers and others who go out into the wilds will find in this volume clear and concise information and instruction relating to these weapons and how to use them. The book may be carried in the pocket.

**Illustrated Pocket Guide to Melrose, Abbotsford, etc. (The Land of Scott.)** By Ralph Richardson. Third Edition. John Bartholomew & Co., Edinburgh, 1908.

A convenient pocket guide with driving, walking, and cycling routes and a fine route map. The guide was originally prepared for an excursion of the British Association of which the writer acted as leader. It exactly fills the need of tourists in the Scott country.

**The Montreux-Bernese-Oberland Railway via The Simmenthal.** By Alfred Ceresole. English translation by E. de Steiger. 78 pp., many Illustrations from Photographs, and a Map. Art. Institut Orell Füssli, Zurich. (Price, 6d.)

One of the finely illustrated handbooks in English issued by Füssli under the general title of "Illustrated Europe" and revealing by text and beautiful pictures what may actually be seen of the Alps along this electric railroad line between Lakes Geneva and Thun.